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1964-1966

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for the  
record  
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1960-1961  
SUMMARY

REPORT  
of the  
PENNSYLVANIA  
GAME  
COMMISSION





*The primary object of your Game Commission is to afford sports recreation now and in the future to Pennsylvania hunters.*

*The achievement of this goal has become more difficult each year. Because of the tremendous inroads on natural hunting land by spreading cities and towns, plus, of course, the vast amount of land required by our expanding highway system, hunting land is being lost each year.*

*An indication of the success of our efforts is reflected in the number of licenses issued. . . . Out-of-state sportsmen in particular love Penn's Woods for superlative hunting and established in 1961 a high in the nonresident licenses purchased.*

*This report in no wise tells the complete story of the countless activities of the commission. It is designed merely to highlight some of the functions of general interest and to provide figures and facts on the work of the past two years.*





## NEW COMMISSIONERS

Nicholas Biddle, Bethayres, Montgomery County, reappointed as a Member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission June 13, 1961, and confirmed by the Senate June 20, 1961.

R. G. Smith, Berwick, Columbia County, appointed as a Member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission June 13, 1961, and confirmed by the Senate August 29, 1961.

Russell L. Mervine, East Stroudsburg, Monroe County, appointed as a Member of the Pennsylvania Game Commission January 15, 1962, and confirmed by the Senate January 29, 1962.

Personnel at the close of the biennium numbered 332 salaried, including 20 student officers, and 361 seasonal-required hourly employes. Twelve employes retired, three deceased.

Two new field division offices, culminating long planning for adequate quarters, were completed . . . Northeast at Dallas, Luzerne County . . . Southeast at Reading, Berks County.

A budget examiner function was created to correlate budget preparation, control expenditures and supply budgetary information to assure economical measures without reducing the services to sportsmen and public.



administration

To administer, account, enforce and educate are the major duties of the Game Commission and form the framework from which all other endeavors stem.



**the basic figures for the biennium ending June 30, 1962**

Cash receipts totalled	\$11,195,185.3
Disbursements amounted to	13,531,205.0
Balance in Game Funds as of June 30, 1962	8,446,861.0

**This tabulation indicates the varied sources from which this sum accrued:**

Hunting licenses sold . . .	1960	1961
Resident	949,365	933,343
Nonresident	46,403	46,693
3-day Special License	2,288	2,733
Archery	68,051	61,893
Antlerless Deer	229,539	210,843

**Biennium Royalties from:**

Oil and Gas Leases	\$488,459.38
Coal Stripping Permits	83,310.82
Fire Clay Permit	7,725.27
Sale of Forest Products	279,923.80
Sale of Hides, Misc. Furs	8,123.10
Sale of Confiscated Firearms	1,846.59
Penalties from Game Law violations	307,651.31
From Special Permits — including Regulated Shooting Grounds, Taxidermists, Game and Fur Propagators, Fur Dealers, etc.	42,869.00





LAND . . . the number one factor to provide  
place for wildlife to propagate . . . suitable  
area on which to hunt. . . .



30,779.585 acres divided into nine units were added to the Game Lands this biennium. The area of increasingly valuable lands now owned by the commission adds up to 970,940.055 acres in 219 units.

The area of all game management projects, including lands owned by the commission, refuges in State Forests, land owned by others, and other public lands was increased from 2,205,394.23 acres to 2,336,960.375. A healthy addition of over 130,000 acres.

The wisdom of past commission policy in purchasing land for hunting is indicated by the upward trend in acreage cost . . . up to this biennium the average per acre cost was \$5.18 . . . that purchased in '60-61 cost \$27.22 per acre.





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# The '60-61 wildlife harvest . . . an indication of the sport and recreation provided. . . .



## SEASON OF 1961\*    SEASON OF 1960\*

Species	Number	Number
Deer, Legal Antlerless	38,705	38,776
Deer, Legal Antlered	17,327	29,887
Including	(1,517 Archery)	(1,174 Archery)
Total Deer	56,032	68,663
Bears	237	392
Rabbits	878,984	1,116,183
Hares (Snowshoes)	1,032	997
Hungarian Partridges	(Closed)	(Closed)
Squirrels	471,573	508,705
Raccoons	139,785	122,853
Wild Turkeys	17,312	14,920
Ruffed Grouse	59,859	56,868
Ring-necked Pheasants	462,217	481,626
Quail	23,311	19,598
Woodcocks	10,662	11,230
Rails, Gallinules and Coots	4,091	4,637
Grackles (Blackbirds)	—#	—#
Wild Waterfowl	37,874	45,228
Woodchucks	262,758	270,208
Doves	114,244	81,795
Total Number	2,539,971	2,803,903



\* Small Game, based on Field Officers' estimates.  
Big Game, based on individual reports filed by hunters



## Accomplishments...

Pennsylvania hunters enjoy one of the richest and most diversified game harvests gleaned anywhere . . . a measure, to a large degree, of the success of the management program.

To provide the hunting success the average sportsman expects, natural reproduction of many species must be supplemented . . . six commission owned game farms are operated to capacity . . . three for ring-necked pheasants, one each for wild turkeys, bobwhite quail and waterfowl.

Raised and released from these farms were . . . 208,309 pheasants, 11,512 wild turkeys, 27,506 bobwhite quail and 21,649 mallard ducks. To augment these totals many birds were purchased or raised by farmers and sportsman organizations from commission supplied eggs or chicks. . . . Rabbits were live trapped and transferred from lands closed to hunting to open country. . . .

## Summary of Game Released



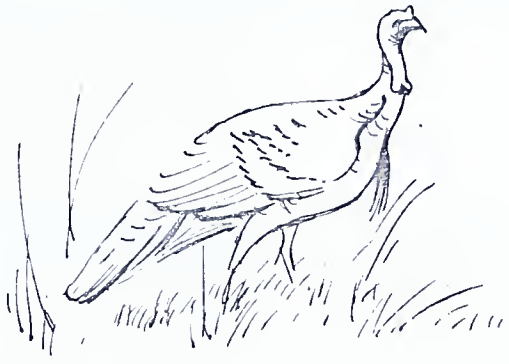
Ring-necked Pheasants	701,324
Cottontail Rabbits	110,395
Bobwhite Quail	27,506
Mallard Ducks	21,799
Wild Turkeys	11,512
Canada Geese	594
Snowshoe Hares	1,087







## land management



Making the best use of available lands and assuring adequate food and cover to maintain and preserve a healthy stock of wildlife is a tremendous undertaking. . . . Herewith, but a few of the noteworthy accomplishments this biennium:

Over 150,000 acres were benefited by clearing, treating or planting, thus providing more productive food and cover for geese.

49 bridges—46.5 miles of roads—7 gates—17 metal storage bins as well as 586 turkey feeders were constructed.

4,400 miles of boundary lines were maintained or established. Maintained were 1,300 miles of road and 644 miles of fire trails. 2,400 turkey feeders, over 101,000 acres of refuges, all common owned buildings and sundry equipment were given required tenance.

209 acres in 28 marsh ponds were kept in order . . . added two new propagation areas . . . No. 77 a goose area and No. 213 a farm.

7,864 acres were planted with grains and grass.





3 farms in our Cooperative farm game program add up to 1,295, important acres—valuable to game production and sportsman- relationships. Seedlings to these cooperators for food and planting totaled 4,424,915.

4 bushels of ear corn and other grains were distributed in win- eding programs . . . nearly double the amount of the last bien- due to the very severe winter of 1961.

Howard Nursery produced 10,235,550 seedlings for game land, and land, farm game projects and distribution to conservation ations.

owners whose property is open to public hunting and who suf- deer damage received 4,680 rods of deer proof fencing and 717 ds of staples (cost, \$13,496.74). Under the agreement the property rs furnish posts and labor to erect and maintain the fence.

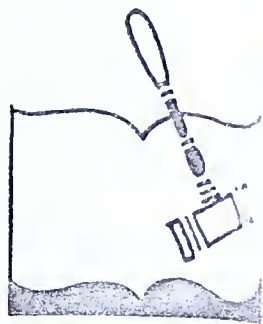
en privately owned land to public hunting a safety zone pro- was developed. To post around buildings on their property, ative farmers owning a minimum of 50 acres were given one signs. Since the last biennium 2,936 farms containing . acres have been added bringing the total to 1,145,570 acres 77 farms.

\$1,030,804.42 in Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds for use by the Division of Land Management was received. To this amount the commission added \$343,601.47 . . . this was spent for habitat improvement and the acquisition of Game Lands.





## legislation



There were changes in the Game Law made by the 1961 Legislature . . . while some were of a minor nature, to clarify the wording, others were of major importance to hunters, trappers and fur dealers . . . for their exact context a copy of the laws should be procured. In brief, they concerned the following:

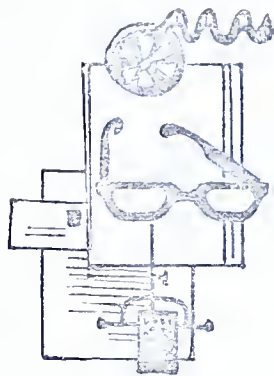
- ▶ Making it unlawful to assist in the taking, killing, or wounding of any game in closed season.
- ▶ Raccoon dog trials may be held during nighttime hours.
- ▶ No group, deer hunting together, in unison or as a party, shall consist of more than 25 persons.
- ▶ A second wild turkey, deer or bear may be killed, if the first when presented to a District Game Protector is deemed unfit for human consumption and provided authorization, in writing, is given by the Game Protector.
- ▶ Any person properly licensed who fails to display his license shall be fined \$5 and costs provided it is shown that the person purchased a license. Otherwise a penalty of \$20 and costs shall be imposed.
- ▶ Archery preserves have been abandoned.
- ▶ Autoloading and magazine shotguns unless limited to 3-shell capacity in magazine and chamber combined must be plugged in such a manner that the plug cannot be removed without disassembling the gun. Fine \$10.
- ▶ Increased penalties for waterfowl violations . . . \$25 for each shot wild goose, brant or wild duck.
- ▶ Restores the right for the Game Commission to describe deer-archery seasons.





## Education

means, methods and techniques of conservation practices and wildlife management are undergoing constant change as scientists uncover new facts. To maintain commission personnel, to inform the general public and hunters in particular of these changes and to keep them posted on the wildlife situation is a specialized commission task of countless phases . . . new accomplishments during the past biennium include:



- As in-service training, refresher courses of one week each were given to the entire salaried field force.

- 153 Deputy Game Protectors attended a one-week training course. (Lack of accommodation prevented far more from enrolling)

- 432 men applied for training as Game Protectors. From these 21 were selected. Due to three resignations 18 students will graduate from the training classes of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation on February 9, 1963.

- Training was given to 350 high school boys by commission furnished instructors in the Pennsylvania Junior Conservation Camp, a worthy effort sponsored by the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsman's Clubs.

- 72 field officers as well as special investigators and law enforcement assistants received 12 one-day periods of bounty and fur identification training given by the personnel of the Bounty Claims Division.

- To give instruction on predator control the supervisor of this division met with over 1,300 sportsmen, farmers and other interested people. A course on this subject was also given to student Game Protectors, In-Service trainees and the Jr. Conservation Camp. District Game Protectors address 551 meetings on this phase of the commission's work. . . .

- Weekly Newsletters giving up-to-the-minute dope and data on hunting, trapping and wildlife management were mailed to 300 newspapers, 166 radio and TV stations and 175 outdoor writers as well as capital reporters and commission personnel.

- 30,000 letters and postcards were received from persons interested in Pennsylvania wildlife and the commission program.

- 748,000 people attending over 3,000 meetings enjoyed wildlife information programs presented by field and office personnel.

- Color slides lectures were prepared and duplicated. These and many motion picture films were used by many assembled groups.

- Exhibits were displayed at all major sportsmen's gatherings.

- Nine one-minute TV "spots" were produced and sent to 24 television stations.



## research



To uncover the basic facts concerning the quantity and health of Pennsylvania's wildlife population . . . to assess this data and translate it into means and methods of managing our wildlife to assure its future is the chief function of the research division.

Wildlife research is complex and varied at its best and made so by the rapid human population increase whose attendant continually curtail the land available for game propagation hunting.

Commission biologists maintain a check of seasonal and fluctuations in game population and of its physical condition. Some of the available habitat are made to assure adequate food and In addition to life history and food habit studies, wildlife disreproductive capacities, the effects of hunting pressure or securing of other vital data on a wide range of research effort 10 biologists of the commission worked on these specific problems during the biennium . . .

1. White-tailed deer study
2. Conemaugh River Reservoir habitat development and management
3. Woodcock management study
4. Wild Turkey study
5. Snowshoe hare investigation
6. Ring-necked Pheasant study

Federal legislation provides that certain funds as an excise on the manufacture of sporting arms and ammunition be earmarked for approved wildlife research. . . . The game commission receives 25%, the remaining 75% of the cost being underwritten by the Federal Government through Pittman-Robertson funds.







## antlerless deer

An antlerless deer season was held in 1960 and again in 1961. License allocations were predicated on trends in the antlered deer season, crop damage, winter mortality, highway losses, range conditions and the reproductive capacity of the herd.

It is gratifying to enlightened sportsmen, farmers, foresters, and game managers to see that commission policy is bringing back some of the heavily overbrowsed areas . . . that range conditions are improving and that crop damage is decreasing . . . all indications that the basic premise of the deer management program (that of maintaining maximum breeding stock consistent with existing food supply) is paying dividends.

## archery

The declared tenth and eleventh seasons for hunting deer exclusively with the bow and arrow are history. The number of licensed archers increased in 10 years from 5,542 (1951 first year issued) to 61,892 in 1961. A new state record kill of 1,517 deer was made by archers in the 1961 season.



## bear damage claims—1960-62



Bears cost the commission during this biennium \$8,520.17 paid to 145 claimants for damage to livestock, poultry and bee hives.



## 1960-62 bounty claims



The total amount of paid bounty on examined and approved claims in '60-61 amounted to \$214,920.

This includes bounty covering: 16,537 gray fox, 3,908 red fox, 2,628 horned owls.

Rejected claims saved . . . \$2,022—fines collected due to investigations added up to \$1,270.



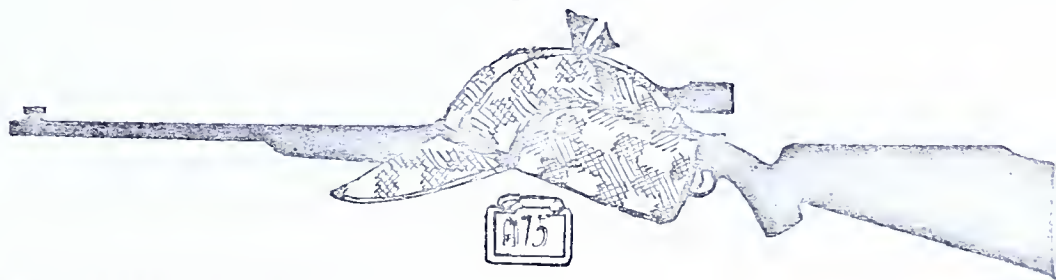


## hunter safety

15,399 students received instruction in the safe handling of firearms and archery equipment from 2,107 certified instructors under the voluntary system for training young people.

All major news and information media were employed to promote the importance of hunter safety. . . . Unfortunately the time worn cliché, "Accidents are bound to happen" still applies although to a lesser degree each biennium. . . . This, due to the fact that awareness of careful gun handling is being impressed upon more and more people through extended hunter safety campaigns.

During the past two-year period there were 50 fatal and 979 non-fatal accidents. During the past 38 years there has been an average of 35 fatal accidents annually, 40.9% self-inflicted.



## law enforcement

With emphasis on vigorously pursuing deliberate and wilful law violators, inroads have been made on the number of prosecutions and penalties during the past biennium . . . 9,406 game law violations were prosecuted netting \$307,651.31 in penalties.

Continuing a policy of long standing, hunting and trapping privileges were suspended in addition to the imposed cash penalty in convicted cases of major character . . . accordingly 2,300 licenses were revoked.



## **GAME NEWS** continues to grow . . .



showing an astounding increase in circulation of nearly 25,000 subscriptions in the past two years. Pennsylvania's official Game Commission magazine is recognized as one of the best in the nation . . . a fact well attested by the number of subscribers not only among this state's hunters but in 49 other states as well as 19 foreign countries.

In June, 1962, the paid circulation reached an all time high of 77,334 . . . an additional 23,000 copies are mailed each month to Farm Game and Safety Zone Cooperators, members of legislature, other state and Federal agencies, school and college libraries, outdoor writers, etc. . . .

### **Other popular paid publications issued by the commission include:**

- A book "Pennsylvania Bird Life"
- A booklet "Pennsylvania Wildlife"
- A book "Birds of Pymatuning"
- A booklet "Pennsylvania Trapping and Predator Control Methods"
- A set of four Bird Charts in full color
- A set of two Bird Charts and two Mammal Charts in full color



To you, as a sportsman, farmer, legislator or conservation-minded citizen, must go a large share of the credit for keeping Pennsylvania well to the forefront in its rich and diversified supply of game.


The commission's basic decisions, plans and programs are based solely on the desires and interests of the supporting sportsmen as individuals and groups.

To justify this support and to provide the sportsmen of today as well as those of tomorrow with wholesome recreation afield is the commission's business, purpose and goal.

Our success is best measured by this acknowledged and sincerely appreciated support.

ATTEST:

James A. Thompson, President  
H. L. Buchanan, Vice-President  
Dewey H. Miller, Secretary  
Brig. Gen. Nicholas Biddle  
Russell M. Lucas  
Carroll F. Hockersmith  
R. G. Smith  
Russell L. Mervine

  
M. J. Golden, Executive Director

